

Grade 4 Sample Test Prompt

Word Choice

We all have things that we believe are exciting. Think of something you have done that was exciting to you. It might be winning a ball game, getting a new pet, or riding a bike.

Write a story about a time when you felt excited.

Your essay should

- Have a beginning, middle, and end .
- Describe the exciting experience .
- Include details about the experience .

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

WORD CHOICE

<p>6</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing. • fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>5</p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing. • fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective. • vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. • ordinary words used in an unusual way. • words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used. 	<p>4</p> <p>Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work but do not particularly energize the writing. • expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective. • attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone. • occasional overuse of technical language or jargon. • rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.
<p>3</p> <p>Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that work, but that rarely capture the reader’s interest. • expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective. • attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced. • words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear, technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used. • reliance on clichés and overused expressions. 	<p>2</p> <p>Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words that are colorless, flat or imprecise. • monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly distract from the message. • images that are fuzzy or absent altogether. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general, vague words that fail to communicate. • an extremely limited range of words. • words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.

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Writing

FINAL COPY

Hi my Namg is lucky.
my Dog the Big Dog is
Color is red an Play is
Soccer.

My brother is Play is the ball.
Mg Mother is cat my Dog
is on cat

My brother little Play on the
my Dog and me the Park.

The End

Score point 1 – Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague and imprecise language. The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

I will tell you how my pet
 dog looks like tall, black, thick, and he is
 kind. Next, I will tell you what he
 likes. He likes to play with kids, and walk
 very far. Then I will tell you four
 things he can do. He can play, run, walk, and
 more. This is how I take care
 of him. I clean him, I feed him everyday,
 and I let him get a good walk.

Score point 2 – Language is monotonous, detracting from impact and meaning. The writer uses “I will tell you” 3 times in 6 sentences, “walk” 3 times, and “I” 7 times, evidence of monotonous repetition.


Writing**FINAL COPY**

First thing is I was moving from Oregen to Arizona and we had my cat Tigger in the car with us and he wouldn't eat his own food he would begg for ours. He was the only cat we had with us. Some times when we would go to sleep he would to and some times he didn't he would just go to sleep on us. Some times Tigger would play with us. And we would play the quiet game and win like a soda or a pack of bubble gum. And we went to fast food places. And we would go to rest stops and stores and we slept in our car. And only went to two motels.

Score point 3 – Language is quite ordinary and lacks precision. Expression seems mundane and general. Words work, but rarely capture the reader's interest. Action verbs are missing and only a few modifiers are used to take the paper beyond the "generic" paper filled with familiar words and phrases.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

<h3 style="margin: 0;">Cheerleading Competition</h3> <p>Have you ever been to cheerleading? Well I'm going to tell you a story about cheerleading.</p> <p>Our team was practicing our new dance. We have been practicing it for about a month now. We came every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at six o'clock pm. First we watched and listened to our coach, then we tried it. Coach Christina told us if we were doing something wrong. It was all just for fun though.</p> <p>The next time we came Coach Christina told us that there was only one more month until competitions. So we all agreed to get a red, white, and blue outfit so we can all look the same. Coach Christina said that we also needed red lipstick on and a ponytail in our hair.</p> <p>This time it wasn't practice, it was the real competition. It was at a high school in the cafeteria. Some of the girls weren't there. But the girls who were there had their makeup, hair, and outfits on. It took about one hour till we were on stage so we practiced.</p>
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Page 4**Go On** 

Writing**FINAL COPY**

We felt proud, but nervous to.
 Finally we were up. We felt like we
 were champions doing our dance. We felt so
 proud. We did our dance then they did the judging.
 Now the trophies were going to be handed
 out. It went in order. Third goes to
 Coach Mandy! Second goes to Coach Christina! Yes!
 We were all happy. Then everybody got
 a medal. It was the exciting days of my
 life.

Score point 4 – Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. There are rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments. For instance, “This time it wasn’t practice, it was the real competition” stands out and does energize the writing.

Writing**FINAL COPY**

One day, my dad and I were watching T.V., when the phone rang. I answered it, and to my surprise it was Rich. I gave the phone to my dad. He told me I was going to sub for Rich's team. I was so excited I jumped right out of my shoes.

When my mom got home, I told her all about it. She didn't believe it. So she asked my dad. He told her it was true. Then she hugged me so tight I turned blue.

At the game I play right and left field. I always hit last. Every time I got up to bat, I got on base. But in the 2nd inning Noelle got hurt. We were very depressed.

In the last inning, there was 1 out, bases loaded and I was up to bat. Woosh, Woosh, two strikes went by. Then bang! I hit the ball right over the first baseman's head. I went to 1st, 2nd, and stopped at 3rd, I got 3 runs.

We lost by 2 runs, but I did really good. After our cheer, Rich asked to be on the team. My dad said "yes." I was so excited I told everyone. My family was so happy for me. They were proud to because I was the only 9 year old playing with 12 and 13 year olds. It was the best day ever!

Sincerely,

Score point 5 – The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writer involves the reader with words and phrases such as "Woosh, Woosh," "Then bang!" and the multiple underlining of "only" and "ever." These words evoke clear images.

P

Writing**FINAL COPY**

A couple of years ago when I was eight I went to Hawaii. When we got off the plain ride I didn't know where I was the smell was amazing. I could not believe it! We finally got to the hotel. It had flamingos in the lobby.

The next day I woke up and looked outside everything was unique. We all went outside to look at it in the daylight it was spectacular. The pool had a waterslide! We went down it a lot of times. I started to see geckos on the walls and trees by the end of the trip I found 110 geckos! We bought inter tubes and went to the beach. We would sit there and the waves would push us up shore. That night when we ate dinner I thought I was in heaven.

The next morning we woke up early to go snorkelling. We strolled down the road to the spot. I dove under the water every where I turned there was a new animal. We saw every color of the rainbow under the sea. I loved it! I felt like a new born baby just opening my eyes to a new world. I turned around and bam there was a sea turtle! It was so graceful. I was not even scared of us. It was amazing. I never thought that I would ever see a sea turtle swimming right next to me.

Page 4

Go On 

Writing**FINAL COPY**

It started to swim away after a while. When I am there
 was an eel looking up at me. I was a little
 frightened but amused.

This was very exciting. I want to go
 back soon. I felt like I had died and gone to heaven!
 I think that it is the best vacation ever.

Score point 6 – Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way. The writer uses vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone. Words and phrases such as “unique,” “spectacular,” “strolled,” “I felt like a new born baby just opening my eyes to a new world,” and “frightened but amused” are examples of fresh, original expression. These and other words evoke strong images.